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RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0679  
RUEHVT/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY 0476  
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 6363

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02

TRIPOLI 000133

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG; OES FOR ROBERT SENENEY AND WILLIAM LAWRENCE;

PM /RSAT FOR TOM MANCINELLI; COMMERCE FOR NATE MASON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/16/2020 TAGS: [TSPA](#) [ETTC](#) [PINR](#) [LY](#)

SUBJECT: LIBYA SEEKS U.S. COOPERATION ON ASTRONOMY, SEISMOLOGY AND SATELLITES TRIPOLI 00000133 001.2 OF 002 CLASSIFIED BY: Gene Cretz, Ambassador

1.(SBU) This is an action request. Please see para 8.

[¶2.](#) (SBU) Summary: The head of Libya's Center for Remote Sensing and Space Science expressed interest in renewing cooperation with the U.S. on

[¶3.](#) (SBU) On February 3, Pol/Econ Chief and Econoff met with Hadi Gashut, head of Libya's Center for Remote Sensing and Space Science, who had LIBYA HAS 300 CLOUDLESS NIGHTS: PERFECT FOR ASTRONOMY

[¶4.](#) (SBU) According to Gashut, Libya has, on average, "300 cloudless nights," and therefore offers an excellent locale for astronomy research. SEISMOLOGY

[¶5.](#) (C) Gashut asked if U.S. experts would be interested in participating in workshops on seismology and other related topics. He said Libya has NASA: LIBYA WELCOMES YOU BACK

[¶6.](#) (SBU) Regarding the equipment that NASA had provided to the University of Sebha, Gashut said that the Very Low Frequency (VLF) equipment was BACKGROUND

[¶7.](#) (SBU) Gashut noted that his organization falls under the National Authority for Scientific Research, headed by Mohammed Sharif, which is part COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST

[¶8.](#) (C) Following the signing of the U.S.-Libya Science and Technology Agreement, no Libyan institutions, with the exception of the Libyan Atom ...